

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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25X1

1. The Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej Railroad Engineering Institute (Institutul de Cai Ferate "Gh. Gheorghiu-Dej") is under the joint control of the Ministries of Education and Railroads. It is divided into the following functionally independent departments which are linked only through a central administrative department:
 - a. Civil engineering
 - b. Mechanical engineering
 - c. Telecommunications
 - d. Exploitation
 - e. Planning
2. The Institute is headed by a rector and his deputy, a pre-rector. The central administrative units of the Institute are the academic secretariat under the control of the rector, the administrative secretariat, the technical department, the finance department, and the personnel department. The total administrative staff consists of approximately 50 persons, which figure includes seven or eight officials in the personnel department and a number of auxiliary workers in the Institute's Student Home, located outside the city.
3. The central administrative offices and the civil engineering department are located at 108 Blvd. 1 May (formerly Filantropiei). The mechanical engineering and telecommunication departments are located at 3-5 Strada Mihail Moxa (formerly Str. Barba Catargia), and the planning department is located on Str. Alexandra Sahia (formerly Str. Gogu Cantacuzino).

S-E-C-R-E-T

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- 2 -

25X1

Students

4. Admission in the Institute is open to graduates of secondary schools who have passed the matriculation examination and to graduates of the various secondary trade schools who have received permission from the respective Ministry to change to railroad engineering. If students of the latter category have received good grades at their trade schools, they meet no opposition to their request for a transfer; if, however, their grades were poor, permission to transfer was given only in exceptional cases. Because there is a large number of candidates for the vacancies in the Institute, all of them take a fairly difficult entrance examination.
5. The Institute had a total of approximately 1,600 students for the academic year 1954/1955. The two largest departments, civil engineering and mechanical engineering, had 400-500 students each; the remaining students were divided more or less equally between the other three departments.
6. The majority of students are from workers' families, and the others have a bourgeois background. Very few students leave jobs for full time study at the Institute. Girls represent approximately 30 percent of the student registration. More than 50 percent of the students are from outside Bucharest and live at the Institute's Student Home. There are some foreign students from other Communist countries, including a few Korean and Chinese students, but there are none from the USSR.
7. Tuition and fees are established on the basis of the following categories:
 - a. Students of "workers" origin pay 200 lei per year.
 - b. Students of "bourgeois" origin pay 500 lei per year.

If two or more brothers or sisters are registered as students at the same time, the fees are halved or divided proportionally. Students who have been awarded scholarships are exempted from tuition and fees, and students whose grades are "very good" to "good" receive full or partial exemption according to the number of "very good" grades.
8. Up to December 1954 the scholarship awards amounted to 180 lei or exactly the sum of rent and canteen expenses for non-Bucharest residents at the Students Home. The awards were then increased to approximately 270 lei, and a special scholarship (Bursa de Merit) of 50 lei was established for those students with "very good" grades in most subjects and "good" grades in the remaining subjects. Scholarships are awarded only on the following basis:
 - a. Parents' income not to exceed 700 lei per month, with small variations according to the number of children.
 - b. Passing of all examinations.
 - c. A high average of good grades in studies.
9. The previous course of study was four years in duration; in 1954, however, the duration was extended to five years, with the result that no students will graduate in 1955. This same change was made in all other technical schools. Directives from higher authorities specified that the examinations in 1954 and particularly the examinations at the end of the first semester of the 1954/55 year were to be made more difficult and administered more strictly so as to insure the failure of as many

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

- 3 -

25X1

students as possible. Hundreds of students from colleges and secondary schools were thus forced to go to the provinces for a year's physical work before being able to resume their studies.

Courses of Study

10. Students at the Institute attend classes six days a week, five days for academic subjects and the sixth for military studies. Each department has a separate chair for military studies, a compulsory subject with examinations for all students except for foreigners, girls, male students over 26 years of age, and the physically unfit. Five lecture hours per week are devoted to military studies, but almost no field training is given during the course of an academic year. Graduates of the Institute must have one to two months of practical military training immediately after their graduation, following which they are appointed reserve officers in the engineering corps. In addition to the compulsory military studies, each department gives one lecture hour per week on Local Air Defense (Aparare Locala Antiaeriana) during the last two academic terms.
11. Study of the Russian language and certain political courses are included in the curriculum as follows:
 - a. Russian language - three hours per week for the first three years.
 - b. Marxism-Leninism - two hours per week for the first three years, plus seminars in the evenings.
 - c. Political economy - four hours per week for the last two years. No political courses are given during the last year.
12. Each department of the Institute holds evening classes for workers, a practice started in 1952 or 1953. The duration of the complete course is from six to seven years. Attendance at the lectures is not compulsory, but examinations are held at the end of each semester.
13. All students are members of the Students' Syndicate, to which they pay nominal monthly dues. Approximately 80 percent of the students are members of the Youth Labor Union (Uniunea Tineretului Muncitoresc) which is subordinate to the Party organization in the Institute. Party members in the Institute, mostly worker-students or teachers and students classified as candidate-members, total less than five percent of all personnel at the Institute. Students are organized in groups of 20, each headed by three students: one for the Syndicate, one for the UTM, and one for the Institute's curriculum. These groups meet each two or three weeks, with discussions centered on day-to-day problems connected with studies. The majority of the students make every effort to avoid all political activity, partly because of their preoccupations with their studies and partly because of their indifference or hostility to the regime. The compulsory political subjects in the curriculum meet with a like reception.

Personalities

14. Zoe Andelman, teacher of Russian language at the Institute.
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15. Colonel Balanescu (fnm) is head of the military chair in the Institute's department of civil engineering.

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S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

- 4 -

25X1

16. Aurel Beles, teacher of mechanics and building statics at the Institute
[redacted] 25X1
17. Emil Botea, lecturer in geotechnics in the Institute's department of civil engineering, [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
18. Otto Braester, a lecturer in hydraulics in the department of civil engineering, is also employed as an engineer by the Ministry of Railroads.
19. Caliu (fmu), teacher of reinforced concrete at the Institute, is also a high-ranking official of the Ministry of Railroads.
20. Andrei Caracostea, teacher in the department of civil engineering. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
21. Dr. S. Constantinescu-Catunesti (formerly Catz), teacher of reinforced concrete in the department of civil engineering. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
22. Draghicescu (fmu), lecturer in building materials at the Institute, was formerly head of one of the Institute's departments.
23. Dan Ghiocel, lecturer in the department of civil engineering. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
24. Virgil Hilla, head of the department of civil engineering. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
25. Gheorghe Ilie, lecturer in the department of civil engineering. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
26. Alexandru Lefter, teacher of Russian language at the Institute, was Vice-Minister of Education in 1947/48.
27. Aurel Pop, teacher of physics at the Institute, was Vice-Minister of Education in 1947/48.
28. Teofil Revici, teacher of steel construction and bridges at the Institute. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted]
29. Carol Stelian, lecturer, in mathematics and communications at the Institute. [redacted] 25X1
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- 5 -

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30. Alexandru Stoenescu, teacher of mechanics at the Institute

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[REDACTED]

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31. Gabriel Sudan, teacher of mathematics at the Institute,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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32. Radu Visan, lecturer on Marxism at the Institute

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[REDACTED]

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33. Vitu (formerly Moscovici), assistant lecturer on Marxism at the Institute
and active in the Arlus organisation.

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